

Mount Clipping in Space Below

In JFK case

Photo 'touch-up' charge

By TOM RAUM
Times Staff Writer

Did New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison commission a set of deliberately "touched-up" photographs of Tampan Kerry Thornley to show an alleged likeness to accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald?

The possibility was confirmed to The Times today by Thornley's attorney, Arnold Levine. An aide to Garrison has disclaimed any such order.

The Times learned of the existence of a letter which was reportedly mailed to a freelance artist in California bearing the letterhead of Garrison's office. The letter contained a purported request to "touch-up" photographs "to make Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald."

THORNLEY, onetime buddy of Oswald, is being prosecuted by Garrison on a charge of lying about his connection with the alleged assassin in New Orleans during the months prior to the John F. Kennedy assassination in 1963.

Attorney Levine said he has reason to believe Garrison wanted to use the touched-up photographs to support a theory that Thornley posed as Oswald on several occasions when Oswald was away from New Orleans — apparently on clandestine missions.

The Times has also come into the possession of copies of

photos which Levine said were re-touched by the California artist, as well as another letter apparently from one of Garrison's assistants denying that the district attorney had any intention of using a "touched-up" photograph of Kerry Thornley in his trial.

The 29-year-old Tampa freelance writer, who served in the same Marine Corps outfit with Lee Harvey Oswald, is presently awaiting trial on the perjury charge. Specifically, he is charged with lying before a New Orleans grand jury last winter.

LEVINE TERMED the request to touch-up Thornley's photograph "just another example of the sham" of Garrison's investigation, and the charges which have been lodged against the Tampan.

The letter asking for the "re-touch" job bears the date of March 12, and the name of Harold Weisburg, a New Orleans writer whom Levine said has a "well-known" connection with Garrison.

Written on what appears to be official stationery, the letter, addressed to Fred Newcomb, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., says:

"Enclosed are four sets of pictures of Kerry Thornley printed backwards but otherwise entirely untouched. My purpose was to emphasize the resemblance to Oswald and his receding hairline, which when his hair is combed the opposite of his normal fashion is quite emphatic.

"WHAT I WOULD like you

(Indicate page, newspaper, city)

B. APPROX 11/11

PAGE 1-2
THE TAMPA
Tampa

Date: 11-27-61

Edition:

Author: Tom Raum

Editor: James A.

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated



Look-alikes?

"Backwards" photo of Thornley (top), and "touched-up" (second). Thornley as he really looks (third), and Oswald (bottom).

65-119-60-1618
ENCLOSURE

to do with one of each pair is pretend you were a make-up man doing the minimum necessary to make Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald as for example by pruning off or brushing back the forelock, trimming the eyebrows, shadowing the chin, etc.

"I would like you to keep one pair for your use out there, send one pair to me and the other two to Jim Garrison . . ."

The letter indicates that it was typed by a secretary with the initials "bb."

A second letter, dated May 21, and also bearing the "bb" initials purports to be from executive assistant Dist. Atty. Jim Alcock to artist Newcomb, and reads:

"I HAVE just received the documents you sent concerning Harold Weisburg's request for you to do some photographic touching-up on pictures of Kerry Thornley. So that the record may be set straight, Mr. Weisburg, who is not a member of our staff, made the request without our authority or consent.

"Further, this office has absolutely no intention of using any 'touched-up' photograph of Kerry Thornley in his trial . . ."

Neither Garrison nor Alcock could be reached by The Times today for comment, but a receptionist in the district attorney's office confirmed that there is a typist in the office typing pool with the initials "bb." She declined to give her name.

THE RECEPTIONIST also said that while Weisburg "isn't a member of the staff," he was well known in the office. Weisburg, author of "Whitewash," is presently in Frederick, Md., the DA's office said.

Garrison alleges that Oswald, David Ferrie, Clay Shaw and Jack Ruby, working on the fringe of the CIA, hatched the assassination plot while they were in New Orleans in 1963.

Thornley, who has published a book on his acquaintance with Oswald, denies he met with Oswald in New Orleans.

No trial date has been set in Thornley's case.



JIM GARRISON
District Attorney

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119**

March 12, 1968

Mr. Fred Newcomb
4640 Noble Avenue
Sherman Oaks, California

Dear Fred:

Enclosed are four sets of pictures of Kerry Thornley P backwards but otherwise entirely untouched. My purpose to emphasize the resemblance to Oswald and his receding hairline, which when his hair is combed the opposite of normal fashion is quite emphatic.

What I would like you to do with one of each pair is if you were a make-up man doing the minimum necessary to make Thornley look as much as possible like Oswald as for by pruning off or brushing back the forelock, trimming eyebrows, shadowing the chin, etc. I would like you to send one pair for your use out there, send one pair to me the other two to Jim Garrison, District Attorney, 2700 Avenue, New Orleans, La. 70119.

Best to Marilyn and everyone else and many many thanks

Sincerely,

HAROLD WEISBURG

HW:bb
Enclosure

"That would cover lamps adequately," Curry said.

Curry also pointed out to council that a section of the law, which stipulated that "all operators must accept and respond to emergency calls, be amended to include the word "transmit."

Council heard one funeral home representative complain of his ambulance being unable to pass inspection tests because its emergency light did not have a clear plastic cover, but one of glass instead.

**CHRISTIAN
SCIENCE
SERVICES**

You are cordially invited to
attend these Churches of
CHRIST, SCIENTIST

**THANKSGIVING DAY
SERVICES!**

FIRST CHURCH
Grand Central and Cedar Ave.

11:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Day

SECOND CHURCH
1310 W. Linebaugh Ave.

11:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Day

THIRD CHURCH
2616 Bay-to-Bay Blvd.

10:00 A.M.
Thanksgiving Day

• No Evening Service
for Thanksgiving Day

The left

Both letters appear to be on official "DA" stationery. Letter on left asks for "touch-up" job, one on right disclaims Garrison's involvement.

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